

## Director's Report - July 2010

### Welcome to the "New" Montgomery County Public Libraries

July marks the beginning of new library hours as well as changes in policy, fees, and programming. Due to budget cuts over the last two years, Montgomery County Public Libraries (MCPL) has gone from a \$40 million library system to a \$28 million system. As a result, it was necessary to restructure library services and fees and reduce staffing, library hours and programming, as well as to decrease expenditures for books and other library materials.

Please remember that our library collection is a shared resource. With fewer materials being purchased, we ask customers to handle library books and other materials with care so that everyone will have the opportunity to use and enjoy the collection.

New hours of operation at all libraries, except the Noyes Library, began on July 6; hours at Noyes will remain the same. The new schedule provides consistent hours of operation throughout the library system and extends hours on Friday and Saturday evenings until 6 p.m. Customers now have access to a library in Montgomery County Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and on Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Sunday hours will resume in mid-August with the following libraries open on Sundays year-round (except on certain major holiday weekends) from 1-5 p.m.: Bethesda, Germantown, Marilyn J. Praisner, Rockville Memorial, Silver Spring, and Wheaton.

By now, you have seen many new faces at our libraries. The realignment of staff was necessary in order to ensure success for all branches. While these staff members are new to their reassigned location, they bring expertise, knowledge, and years of experience in providing excellent customer service. As you visit the library, please welcome the staff members who are new to your community.

Summer programs @ MCPL are underway. Although MCPL is unable to implement the traditional Summer Reading Program this year, we are offering a variety of exciting programs for children and families that are fun as well as educational. I invite you to visit the library and participate in these summertime programs. We thank the Friends of the Library, Montgomery County and local Friends chapters for funding these programs.

Thank you for making Montgomery County Public Libraries your destination as a community meeting place to learn, share and connect. MCPL will continue to strive to meet your needs and offer library services and resources that sustain and enrich the lives of Montgomery County residents.

B. Parker Hamilton  
Director